

ABSTRACT

A method and system for tracking a changeable description of an article labeled by a machine-readable label (MRL) allows articles like fresh vegetables to be labeled with MRL devices. A unique code in the MRL is correlated with descriptive information about the article including, possibly, changeable information such as a remaining quantity of the article. The descriptive information can be updated, so for example, if the information relates to a bottle of vinegar, the quantity remaining is always correlated to the MRL if the information is regularly updated. Thus, for example, a household inventory can be maintained with quantities that are below an initial value of a purchased item. Also, fresh foods like vegetables and deli foods can be automatically tracked by a home inventory system that reads MRL devices such as radio frequency identification tags.

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